

Message Text

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TAGS: TSPA, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR SPACE AGREEMENT: SPACE SCIENCE (04.03.00)
PRESS RELEASE FOR JASPIC PROJECT

FOR SCICOUN

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM DR. SCHMERLING
TO DR. AVDYUSHIN WITH A COPY TO DR. ALEKSANDROV.

2. MAY 3, 1978 04.03.00

DR. S. I. AVDYUSHIN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
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INSTITUTE OF APPLIED GEOPHYSICS
MOSCOW, USSR

DEAR DR. AVDYUSHIN:

I AM FORWARDING FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE TEXT OF A PRESS
RELEASE ON THE JOINT AMERICAN-SOVIET PARTICLE INTERCALI-

BRATION PROJECT WHICH WE PLAN TO RELEASE ON MAY 16. IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON THE TEXT PLEASE LET US KNOW PRIOR TO THE RELEASE DATE.
TEXT:

SOVIET SHIP DUE TO ARRIVE JUNE 1 FOR JOINT ROCKET TESTS

THE SOVIET RESEARCH SHIP "PROFESSOR VIZE" WILL ARRIVE OFF THE VIRGINIA COAST NEAR NASA'S WALLOPS FLIGHT CENTER (WFC) ABOUT JUNE 1 TO PARTICIPATE IN A SERIES OF ROCKET TESTS DESIGNED TO INVESTIGATE IONIZATION SOURCES IN THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE. LAUNCHES WILL BE CONDUCTED BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER A SOLAR FLARE OR INTENSE MAGNETIC STORM.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS JOINT AMERICAN-SOVIET PARTICLE INTERCALIBRATION (JASPIC) PROJECT IS THE INTERCOMPARISON OF BOTH COUNTRIES' TECHNIQUES USED OVER THE YEARS TO DEDUCE THE INTENSITY OF ENERGETIC ELECTRONS AND PROTONS COMING DOWN INTO THE LOWER IONOSPHERE. THE PROJECT IS DESIGNED TO GATHER EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE CONCERNING THE ROLE OF THESE PARTICLES IN CREATING IONIZATION IN THE LOWER IONOSPHERE AT NIGHT AT MIDLATITUDES. THE PARTICLES ARE THOUGHT TO CAUSE HIGH LATITUDE AURORA. IT IS ALSO THOUGHT THAT SUNLIGHT IS THE PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF IONIZATION EVERYWHERE IN THE DAYTIME.

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THE "PROFESSOR VIZE", OPERATED FOR THE SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, WILL OPERATE OFFSHORE AND SERVE AS THE SOVIET LAUNCH PLATFORM. THE COMPARISON TESTS WILL CONSIST OF THE LAUNCHING OF FOUR SOUNDING ROCKETS FROM WALLOPS ISLAND AND FIVE SOVIET MR-12 ROCKETS FROM THE SHIP. ONE OF THE WALLOPS LAUNCHED ROCKETS WILL CARRY A CHEMICAL CLOUD EXPERIMENT WHICH MAY BE VISIBLE TO EAST COAST RESIDENTS, WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH PAST SIMILAR EXPERIMENTS.

EACH ORGANIZATION WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING COUNTDOWN AND LAUNCH OPERATIONS AS WELL AS ALL ASPECTS OF SAFETY FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE LAUNCHINGS.

A SIMILAR PROJECT INVOLVING US/USSR INTERCOMPARISON OF METEOROLOGICAL ROCKETSONDES WAS CONDUCTED JOINTLY LAST AUGUST FROM THE WALLOPS ISLAND RANGE AND THE "AKADEMIK KOROLEV" LOCATED OFFSHORE. IN THAT PROJECT, 22 PAIRS OF METEOROLOGICAL ROCKETS WERE LAUNCHED DURING A TWO-WEEK PERIOD.

IN THE PAST THERE HAVE BEEN DISPARATE INSTRUMENT MEASUREMENTS OF ENERGETIC PARTICLES IN THE IONOSPHERE.

AT A MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEODESY AND
GEOPHYSICS IN GRENOBLE, FRANCE, IN 1975, US AND SOVIET
SCIENTISTS AGREED THAT THE FIRST QUESTION TO BE RESOLVED
WAS INSTRUMENT CREDIBILITY. A JOINT MEASUREMENT OF THE
INTENSITY OF ENERGETIC ELECTRONS AND PROTONS AT THE SAME
TIME AND PLACE IS A FIRST STEP IN UNDERSTANDING THE

APPARENTLY CONFLICTING RESULTS REPORTED IN SCIENTIFIC
LITERATURE.

END TEXT.

SINCERELY,

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ERWIN R. SCHMERLING
CHIEF OF SPACE PLASMA PHYSICS
OFFICE OF SPACE SCIENCE

CC:
DR. L. A. ALEKSANDROV
HYDROMET SERVICE

CHRISTOPHER

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